

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 05057 290105Z
ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 05057

FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FROM LUCEY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:MASS, MX, GT
SUBJECT: MEXICO AND F-5S

1. IN A RECENT CABLE (MEXICO 04165), I REPORTED ON A DISCUSSION I HELD WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO WHICH INCLUDED REFERENCE TO MEXICO'S PERCEIVED INTEREST IN THE PURCHASE OF F-5 PLANES. MUCH TO MY DELIGHT, THE PRESIDENT ARTICULATED ALL OF THE REASONS WHY MEXICO OUGHT NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN SUCH A PURCHASE. HE SPOKE OF MEXICO'S INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THESE PLANES COULD BE BETTER USED TO MEET THOSE NEEDS AND OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THESE AIRCRAFT CAN NOT BE RELATED TO ANY REASONABLE MEXICAN DEFENSE NEEDS.

2. BECAUSE I FOUND LOPEZ PORTILLO'S COMMENTS TO BE SO STATESMANLIKE AND SO SUPPORTIVE OF YOUR OWN DEEP CONCERN ABOUT ARMS TRANSFERS AND THE HIGH COST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF UNNECESSARY ARMS PURCHASES, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WISH TO WRITE A PERSONAL NOTE TO LOPEZ PORTILLO COMMENDING HIS WISE JUDGMENT IN THIS MANNER.

3. A DRAFT LETTER FOLLOWS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:
QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I AM AWARE THAT YOU HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN STRONG EXCEPTION TO THE SUGGESTION THAT
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 05057 290105Z

MEXICO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC COMMITMENT TO THE PURCHASE OF F-5 SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE A DEEP PERSONAL INTEREST IN AFFECTING A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN ARMS TRANSFERS. YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR THIS EFFORT IS A SOURCE OF IMMENSE GRATIFICATION TO ME, AND I WISH TO EXPRESS MY CONTINUING ADMIRATION FOR THE BOLD AND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP YOU CONTINUE TO DISPLAY IN

SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT THE NOBLE OBJECTIVES OF YOUR
REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE.

QUOTE: ROSALYNN JOINS ME IN EXTENDING TO YOU, CARMEN
AND YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY OUR VERY WARM REGARDS. CORDIALLY,
JIMMY CARTER. END QUOTE.

4. I ALSO WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK
WITH YOU WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON. JEAN AND I WERE
ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO BE ON HAND FOR THE DELIGHTFULLY
INFORMAL DINNER DANCE YOU HOSTED FOR THE NATION'S
GOVERNORS. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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